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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,612	08/03/2001	Harjinder Dulai	00100.01.0051	7518

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VEDDER PRICE KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ  
222 N LASALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60601

EXAMINER

DUVERNE, JEAN F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/921,612

Applicant(s)

Dulai et al

Examiner

Jean Duverne

Art Unit

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**The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.

2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☒ Claim(s) 26-28 is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7, 8, and 10-25 is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 6, and 9 is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2

20) ☐ Other:

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenberg et al (US patent 5,793,352) in view of Perlman (US patent 6,169,879).

In regard to claims 1-2, 5, 7, 14-23, Greenberg's device discloses a block or housing having a longitudinal axis and including a top surface, a bottom surface, a front surface, a back surface, and side surfaces such that the first and second side surfaces are oppositely disposed; a plurality of jacks, for connection with peripheral devices, disposed on the first and second side surfaces; a recessed portion at 130 formed on the first side surface having at least one of the plurality jacks disposed therein; a projecting portion at 132a, 132b formed on the second side surface having at least one of the plurality of jacks disposed therein; an cable (54) associate with the back surface. However, Greenberg's device fails to explicitly disclose the side surface as being opposed to each other because the connecting device has a circular shape. They are rather adjacent to each other. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to place the side surfaces opposite to each other than

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adjacent to each other, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In *Japike*, 86 USPQ 70.

Regarding claims 3, 8, Greenberg's device discloses the aforementioned limitations but fails to explicitly disclose the use of the S-video. Perlman's device discloses the use of the use of the S-video. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use the S-video such as the one taught in Perlman's structure for improving the interconnection in Greenberg's device.

For claims 10-11, and 24-25, Greenberg's device discloses the aforementioned limitations including a transmitter (8) but fails to explicitly disclose the use of the infrared transceiver. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use the transmitter device such as the one used in Perlman's device for providing corresponding signal in the interface in Greenberg's device. Greenberg's device fails to also disclose the exact location of the infrared transceiver in the housing. It would have matter to meet design requirement to place the infrared in a specific location of the housing (such the front surface).

In regards to claims 12-13, Greenberg's and Perlman's devices disclose the aforementioned limitations a rib including 152, 158 located on the top surface and the cable 54 disposed at an offset from the longitudinal axis disclosed in Perlman's device.

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### *Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schindler et al and Nixon devices disclose connecting features for multiple electrical and electronic devices.

2. Claims 26-28 are allowed. Prior art fails to explicitly the combination features a connector block with multiple input and outputs jacks arrangement wherein the input combination of jacks are located on the first surface and the output combination of jacks located on the second surface.

3. Claims 4, 6, 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean Duverne whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 0297 . The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus, can be reached on (703) 308 - 3119. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308 - 7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

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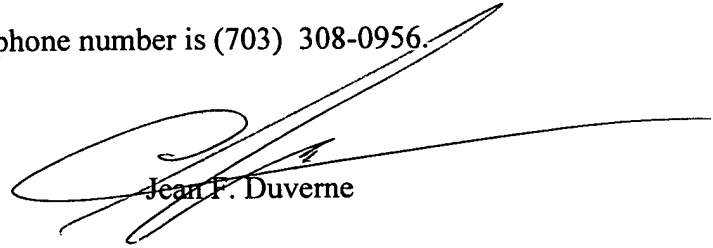
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should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JFD

June 30, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean F. Duverne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2839